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Election  
4-16-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Yukio MICHISHITA

Serial No.: 09/802,986

Group Art Unit: 2633

Filed: March 12, 2001

Examiner: Ngo, Hung Nhat

For: LIGHT BRANCHING APPARATUS AND OPTICAL COMMUNICATION  
SYSTEM USING THE SAME

RECEIVED

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

JAN 26 2004

Technology Center 2600

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION AND  
RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 31, 2003, please consider the  
following:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.